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PIG CROP REPORT, JUNE 1944

WASHINGTON, JUNE 23, 1944 -- (WFA) -- AFTER REACHING AN ALL-TIME RECORD HIGH IN 1943, HOG PRODUCTION IN 1944 IS DECLINING SHARPLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORTED TODAY. THE SPRING PIG CROP OF 1944 IS ESTIMATED AT 55,925,000 HEAD, WHICH IS 24 PER CENT SMALLER THAN THAT OF 1943. A FALL PIG CROP OF ABOUT 32,000,000 HEAD, A DECREASE OF 33 PER CENT FROM 1943, IS INDICATED BY FARMERS' REPORTS ON INTENTIONS FOR FALL FARROWINGS. A TOTAL PIG CROP, SPRING AND FALL COMBINED, OF ABOUT 87,925,000 HEAD WOULD BE 28 PER CENT BELOW 1943, 16 PER CENT BELOW 1942, BUT LARGER THAN IN ANY OTHER YEAR ON RECORD. THE NUMBER OF HOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OLD ON JUNE 1, 1944 WAS ABOUT 5 PER CENT SMALLER THAN A YEAR EARLIER BUT MUCH LARGER THAN IN ANY OTHER YEAR.

THIS REPORT IS BASED UPON RETURNS FROM SOME 140,000 FARMERS OBTAINED IN COOPERATION WITH THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE RURAL MAIL CARRIERS.

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THE NUMBER OF SOWS THAT FARROWED IN THE 1944 SPRING SEASON IS ESTIMATED AT 9,269,000, A DECREASE OF 2,847,000 OR 23 PER CENT FROM 1943. ACTUAL FARROWINGS ARE DOWN RATHER SHARPLY FROM THOSE SHOWN IN THE DECEMBER 1943 PIG CROP REPORT AS INDICATED BY FARMERS' REPORTS ON BREEDING INTENTIONS AT THAT TIME. THE NUMBER FORECAST IN THAT REPORT WAS 10,155,000 SOWS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN A DECREASE OF 1,961,000 OR 16 PER CENT FROM 1943. THE LARGEST DEVIATIONS BETWEEN THE DECEMBER INTENTIONS AND ACTUAL FARROWINGS WERE IN THE WEST NORTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN STATES, WITH THE SMALLEST DEVIATIONS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES WHERE THE RELATIVE REDUCTIONS FROM LAST YEAR, ALSO, WERE THE SMALLEST OF ALL GROUPS.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PIGS SAVED PER LITTER IN THE 1944 SPRING SEASON WAS 6.03 COMPARED WITH 6.10 IN 1943, WITH 6.31 IN 1942 AND WITH A RECORD NUMBER OF 6.36 IN 1941. REDUCTIONS IN SIZE OF LITTERS WERE ESPECIALLY PRONOUNCED IN SOME OF THE WEST NORTH CENTRAL STATES, REFLECTING THE UNFAVORABLE WEATHER DURING THE SPRING MONTHS. IN THE EAST NORTH CENTRAL STATES THE NUMBER OF PIGS PER LITTER WAS BUT LITTLE LARGER THAN THE SMALL NUMBER IN 1943.

THE MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF FARROWINGS AS REPORTED BY FARMERS SHOWED A MATERIAL FALLING OFF IN THE PERCENTAGE OF SOWS THAT FARROW IN MAY FROM THE NEAR RECORD PERCENTAGE OF 1943.

FALL INTENTIONS: FARMERS' REPORTS ON BREEDING INTENTIONS INDICATE THAT 4,990,000 SOWS WILL FARROW IN THE FALL SEASON OF 1944. THIS IS A REDUCTION OF 2,604,000 SOWS OR 34 PER CENT FROM THE NUMBER THAT FARROWED IN 1943 AND OF 1,824,000 SOWS OR 27 PER CENT FROM 1942; BUT IT IS LARGER THAN THE 10-YEAR AVERAGE BY 316,000 SOWS OR 7 PER CENT. THIS DECREASE OF 34 PER CENT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR WOULD BE NEXT TO THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE DECREASE EVER SHOWN, EXCEEDED ONLY IN THE FALL OF THE DROUGHT YEAR OF 1934. IN NUMBER OF SOWS IT WOULD BE MUCH THE LARGEST DECREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR ON RECORD FOR THE FALL SEASON. REDUCTIONS INDICATED FOR ALL REGIONS AND ALL STATES WITH THE MOST PRONOUNCED PERCENTAGE DECREASES IN THE WESTERN CORN BELT AND THE WESTERN STATES. BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS THE DECREASES ARE: NORTH ATLANTIC 35 PER CENT, EAST NORTH CENTRAL 30 PER CENT, WEST NORTH CENTRAL 38 PER CENT, ALL NORTH CENTRAL 34 PER CENT, SOUTH ATLANTIC 22 PER CENT, SOUTH CENTRAL 34 PER CENT, WESTERN 54 PER CENT.

THE INTERPRETATION OF FARMERS' BREEDING INTENTIONS THIS YEAR WAS COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE REDUCTIONS REPORTED WERE MUCH LARGER THAN NORMALLY WOULD BE INDICATED BY THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOG PRICES AND CORN PRICES. WHILE BELOW A YEAR AGO AND SHARPLY DOWN FROM 2 YEARS AGO THE HOG-CORN RATIO IN LATE MAY WAS NOT FAR FROM AVERAGE FOR THAT DATE. IN MOST OTHER YEARS WHEN SHARP REDUCTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN FALL FARROWINGS THE HOG-CORN RATIO IN MAY HAS BEEN MUCH BELOW AVERAGE, EITHER BECAUSE OF RELATIVELY LOW HOG PRICES OR HIGH CORN PRICES OR BOTH. THIS YEAR IN MAY BOTH HOG PRICES AND CORN PRICES WERE AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL. HOWEVER, WITH CORN PRICES HELD DOWN BY CEILINGS, AND HOG PRICES BELOW CEILINGS, THE CURRENT HOG-CORN RATIO DOES NOT REFLECT THE ACTUAL CORN SUPPLY SITUATION AS IT NORMALLY WOULD. ALSO, THERE ARE MANY UNUSUAL FACTORS IN THE HOG SITUATION THIS YEAR THAT SEEM TO BE INFLUENCING FARMERS' DECISIONS MORE THAN PRICE RELATIONSHIPS.

REPORTS FROM FARMERS SHOW THAT A MATERIAL PART OF THE REDUCTIONS IN THE PIG CROP THIS YEAR RESULTS FROM A MARKED DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FARMERS KEEPING SOWS. IN JUNE 1943, THE PERCENTAGES OF FARMERS THAT REPORTED SOWS FARROWING IN THE SPRING AND KEPT TO FARROW IN THE FALL WERE THE LARGEST ON RECORD. THIS YEAR, THE PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS REPORTING SPRING SOWS WAS DOWN 14 PER CENT AND THE PERCENTAGE REPORTING SOWS FOR FALL FARROWING WAS DOWN 29 PER CENT FROM A YEAR EARLIER.

TOTAL YEARLY PIG CROP: IF THE NUMBER OF SOWS THAT FARROW THIS FALL SHOULD BE AS INDICATED BY BREEDING INTENTIONS, AND IF THE NUMBER OF PIGS SAVED PER LITTER SHOULD BE EQUAL TO THE 10-YEAR (1933-42) AVERAGE, THE FALL PIG CROP THIS YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT 32,000,000 HEAD. ADDED TO THE ESTIMATED 55,925,000 SPRING PIGS, THIS NUMBER WOULD GIVE A TOTAL YEARLY PIG CROP OF 87,925,000 HEAD. THIS WOULD BE 33,771,000 PIGS FEWER THAN WERE SAVED IN 1943, AND 16,634,000 BELOW 1942 BUT 12,600,000 ABOVE THE 10-YEAR AVERAGE. THE REDUCED HOG PRODUCTION RESULTING FROM SUCH A DECREASE IN THE PIG CROPS MAY MATERIALLY CHANGE THE FEED SITUATION IN 1945 FROM WHAT IT IS NOW IN 1944 AND WAS IN 1943. IF FEED CROP PRODUCTION IN 1944 SHOULD BE ABOUT AS LARGE AS IN 1943 THE NUMBER OF GRAIN-CONSUMING ANIMAL UNITS FOR 1945 WOULD BE IN MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP TO FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION AND TO TOTAL FEED SUPPLIES THAN IN EITHER 1943 OR 1944.

THE NUMBER OF HOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OLD ON FARMS ON JUNE 1, INCLUDING BROOD SOWS, IS ESTIMATED AT 34,500,000 HEAD THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 36,257,000 HEAD A YEAR EARLIER AND AN 8-YEAR AVERAGE NUMBER OF 23,165,000 HEAD. IN THE CORN BELT STATES THERE WERE 20,866,000 HOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OLD THIS YEAR, 23,017,000 A YEAR EARLIER, AND AN 8-YEAR AVERAGE OF 13,222,000. IN VIEW OF THE DECREASED NUMBER OF SOWS KEPT FOR FALL FARROWING, THE NUMBER OF OTHER HOGS OVER 6 MONTHS OLD ON JUNE 1 IS LARGER THAN THE CORRESPONDING NUMBER ON JUNE 1, 1943. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THE SUPPLY OF HOGS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE 4 MONTHS JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, INCLUSIVE, IS ABOUT AS LARGE THIS YEAR AS A YEAR AGO.

RELEASED BY
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FR. 6/23/44. 1:45 P.M. (C.W.T.)

L. M. WYATT,
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE.

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

UNITED STATES SPRING PIG CROPS

By Geographical Divisions, 1937 to 1944, Inclusive

Geographic Division	Spring Pigs Saved (Dec. 1 - June 1)					Sows: Spring Farrowed (Dec. 1 - June 1)					Sows to be Farrowed, Fall : 1944 compared Fall 1943 : (June 1 - Dec. 1)						
	1937 (Thous.)	1938 (Thous.)	1939 (Thous.)	1940 (Thous.)	1941 (Thous.)	1942 (Thous.)	1943 (Thous.)	1944(1) (Thous.)	1937 (Thous.)	1938 (Thous.)	1939 (Thous.)	1940 (Thous.)	1941 (Thous.)	1942 (Thous.)	1943 (Thous.)	1944(1) (Thous.)	1944(2) (Thous.)
N. Atlantic	908	884	962	878	753	908	1,225	1,173	139	137	156	144	118	144	197	176	139
E.N.Cent.	10,828	11,842	13,960	14,166	14,007	16,378	18,252	15,399	1,668	1,774	2,213	2,303	2,120	2,467	2,947	2,448	1,572
W.N.Cent.	16,499	19,307	24,695	23,171	23,688	29,555	36,815	26,127	2,601	2,981	4,008	3,791	3,706	4,679	5,983	4,394	1,544
S. Atlantic	3,228	3,430	3,834	3,210	3,377	3,741	4,555	4,202	551	579	653	575	519	634	786	722	590
S. Cent.	5,386	6,155	7,563	5,989	5,692	7,775	9,879	7,016	943	1,056	1,306	1,083	959	1,313	1,680	1,201	955
Western	1,676	1,671	2,224	2,153	2,017	2,545	3,185	2,008	275	268	356	347	314	413	523	328	190
U.S.	38,525	43,289	53,236	49,567	49,234	60,502	73,911	55,925	6,177	6,795	8,692	8,243	7,736	9,650	12,116	9,269	4,990
In North Central States (Corn Belt)																	
STATE																	
Ohio	2,168	2,291	2,752	2,776	2,619	3,121	3,438	3,062	327	334	424	450	392	459	551	474	351
Indiana	2,687	2,977	3,434	3,473	3,482	4,004	4,271	3,885	416	445	540	574	522	595	690	607	475
Illinois	3,661	4,096	4,864	4,882	4,918	5,846	6,597	5,391	583	633	800	815	766	912	1,094	897	488
Michigan	645	649	824	880	806	956	1,140	829	95	95	128	138	120	139	181	125	97
Wisconsin	1,667	1,829	2,086	2,155	2,182	2,451	2,806	2,232	247	267	321	326	320	362	431	345	161
EASTERN	10,828	11,842	13,960	14,166	14,007	16,378	18,252	15,399	1,668	1,774	2,213	2,303	2,120	2,467	2,947	2,448	1,572
Minnesota	3,045	3,666	4,533	4,457	4,601	5,355	6,348	4,253	478	564	730	720	720	842	1,019	703	217
Iowa	8,207	9,203	11,011	10,360	10,906	12,756	15,117	11,829	1,311	1,429	1,820	1,704	1,704	2,028	2,454	1,988	624
Missouri	1,588	2,171	2,798	2,771	2,670	3,452	4,137	3,112	242	327	442	458	412	531	664	511	359
No. Dakota	450	538	710	739	814	1,248	1,568	986	68	83	110	114	122	188	250	160	17
So. Dakota	889	1,153	1,701	1,643	1,659	2,101	2,835	1,890	142	181	270	268	265	334	461	327	53
Nebraska	1,622	1,754	2,611	2,129	2,022	3,008	4,581	2,859	255	272	426	353	325	494	766	506	144
Kansas	698	822	1,331	1,072	1,016	1,635	2,229	1,198	105	125	210	174	158	262	369	199	130
EASTERN	16,499	19,307	24,695	23,171	23,688	29,555	36,815	26,127	2,601	2,981	4,008	3,791	3,706	4,679	5,983	4,394	1,544
TOTAL																	
NO. CENTRAL	27,327	31,149	38,655	37,337	37,695	45,933	55,067	41,526	4,269	4,755	6,221	6,094	5,826	7,146	8,930	6,842	3,116

(1) Preliminary

(2) Number Indicated to Farrow this year, from breeding intention reports.

-See other side -

(s-6/23/44. 12:30 PM.)

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PIG CROP REPORT - CONTINUED

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J. H. DIETRICH
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

